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AUG 28 1951
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Calendar No. 639

82d Congress, 1st Session | SENATE | Report No. 670

SISTER M. CROCEFISSA AND SISTER M. REGINALDA

August 20 (legislative day, August 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCarran, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2158]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 2158) for the relief of Sister M. Crocefissa and Sister M. Reginalda, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Sister M. Crocefissa and Sister M. Reginalda. The bill provides for appropriate quota deductions and for the payment of the required visa fees and head taxes.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiaries of the bill are missionary sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Rome, Italy. Sister Crocefissa is a 27-year-old native and citizen of Italy and Sister Reginalda is a 23-year-old native and citizen of Italy. They last entered the United States as visitors on January 9, 1948. They are presently attached to the Mount St. Francis Convent at Peekskill, N. Y.

The pertinent facts in the case are set forth in the following letter dated October 24, 1950, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General, with reference to H. R. 7726 which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same aliens.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, October 24, 1950.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice concerning the bill (H. R. 7726) for the relief of Sisters M. Crocefissa, M. Reginalda, and M. Leonida.

The bill would provide that Sister M. Crocefissa (Maria Pozzobon), Sister M. Reginalda (Giovannina Gemin), and Sister M. Leonida (Zanka Gotcheva) shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the dates of their last entries, on payment of the required visa fees and head taxes.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the aliens, at the time of their entry into the United States, were destined for Mount St. Francis Convent, Peekskill, N. Y. They are missionary sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, of Rome, Italy. It appears that they joined the order in Rome with the understanding that they would receive foreign assignments. The orders directing them to travel to the United States were issued by the mother superior in Rome, Italy. The aliens were admitted into the United States at the port of New York under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924 as temporary visitors.

The files disclose the following additional information with respect to the individual aliens.

Maria Pozzobon (Sister Crocefissa) is a native and citizen of Italy, having been born in Cavasagra, Italy, on February 7, 1923. She last entered the United States on January 9, 1948, and was admitted until April 25, 1948. Several extensions of her temporary stay were granted, the last one until May 15, 1950. She attended school in her native town until about 1934. She then lived and worked on the farm of her parents in Italy. In 1945 she joined the Third Order of St. Francis in Rome, Italy, as a missionary worker. Her mother, four brothers, and five sisters reside in Italy. Her only close relative in the United States is an uncle in Antioch, Calif. Her duties at the Peekskill convent are those of practical nurse in the Sisters' infirmary.

Giovannina Gemin (Sister M. Reginalda) is a native and citizen of Italy, having been born in Ospedaletto, Italy, on February 2, 1928. She last entered the United States on January 9, 1948, and was admitted until April 25, 1948. She was granted several extensions of stay, the last one until May 15, 1950. The alien testified that she attended school until about the year 1938. From 1938 until July 1945, when she joined the Third Order of Saint Francis in Rome, Italy, as a missionary Sister, she resided and worked in her parents' home. Her parents, three brothers, and two sisters reside in Italy. She has no close relatives in the United States. Her duties at the Mount St. Francis Convent are those of a kitchen helper.

Zanka Gotcheva-Badeva (Sister Leonida) is a native and citizen of Bulgaria having been born in Miromir, Bulgaria, on September 21, 1921. She last entered the United States on June 27, 1948, and was admitted until December 27, 1948. She was granted several extensions of stay, the last one until June 26, 1950. She stated that her full name is Zanka Gotcheva-Badeva, and that she attended St. Joseph's Parochial School in Miromir, Bulgaria, until 1933. From 1933 until 1937 she was enrolled in the St. Joseph's School in Constantinople, Turkey. She joined the Third Order of St. Francis on September 24, 1937. She has no relatives in this country. Her parents died in Bulgaria, and her only living relative is an uncle, Father Ignitus Badeva, a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, who resides in Bulgaria. She was at the Mount St. Francis Convent from the time of her admission in June 1948, until September 1948. Since the latter date, she has been a housekeeper in charge of the girls' dining room at the Ladycliffe College, Highland Falls, N. Y.

The quotas for Italy and Bulgaria to which the aliens are chargeable, are oversubscribed and immigration visas are not readily obtainable. It appears that there are insufficient young women enrolling, in the United States, as sisters, who are willing to carry on domestic duties such as are performed by these aliens. It is averred that such women are actually being sought by the order in the United States so that the situation in this country might be alleviated. Whether in this case the general provisions of the immigration laws should be waived presents

a question of legislative policy concerning which this Department prefers not to make any recommendations.

If the measure should receive favorable consideration by the committee, it is suggested that it be amended by showing the full name of the alien, "Zanka Gotcheva-Badeva," in parentheses at the beginning of line 6, and by adding the following section:

"SEC. 2. Upon the enactment of this bill, the Secretary of State is authorized and directed to instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct two numbers from the nonpreference category of the quota for Italy and one number from the nonpreference category of the quota of Bulgaria for the first year such quotas are available."

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

Sister M. Leonida, who is referred to in the above-quoted report is the beneficiary of H. R. 2160 of this Congress.

Mrs. Beatrice Herda Norrell, secretary to Congressman William A. Barrett, the author of the bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and made the following statement:

Chairman and members of the committee, I am here in behalf of H. R. 2158 due to the fact that Congressman Barrett cannot be present today.

The two sisters in whose behalf I appear belong to the Missionary Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of the Catholic Church. They have been here since June 9, 1948, and January 9, 1948, respectively. They were connected with the order while abroad.

They are of the most desirable type and there can be no question that if these bills be approved they will be distinct assets to the United States. These Sisters are working for the Catholic order and are not in any sense in competition with American workers. They expect to remain here permanently and during their entire life in all likelihood will be engaged in this charity work which they are now doing.

Sister Crocefissa is engaged at the present time in the Sisters' infirmary and Sister Reginalda is engaged in kitchen work in St. Joseph's Home in Peekskill, N. Y. As above stated, there will be no competition and the work will be entirely of a charitable nature.

It is hoped that the committee can see its way clear to approve these bills.

They came as section 32 visitors for temporary stay. Since arrival here they have become impressed with American ideals, standards, and customs and are anxious to remain here permanently. The order itself is very anxious to have them remain because of difficulty in securing persons to perform like work.

There is no chance of either of these persons for whom bills have been introduced to become public charges or in anywise dependent upon the community. Their future is taken care of as well as the present. They are of the most desirable type.

The files of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives also contain the following statement from Mother M. Bernice, provincial superior, Mount St. Francis Convent, Peekskill, N. Y., with reference to the case:

MOUNT ST. FRANCIS,
PEEKSKILL, N. Y.

Sister Reginalda and Sister Crocefissa came to the United States from our mother house in Rome, Italy, on January 9, 1948, and Sister Leonida came on June 27, 1948.

Our community, the Missionary Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, is engaged in teaching in parochial schools, and caring for dependent and neglected children in our institutions here at Peekskill and at the Kennedy Home in the Bronx, as well as caring for children in a day nursery in New York City and two in Philadelphia.

To help us in our work and to augment our staff of sisters, we have in the past had sisters come from our mother house in Rome, Italy. These sisters have become citizens of the United States, and are very useful.

Sisters Reginalda, Crocefissa, and Leonida, since they have been in the United States have become very valuable to us. Sister Reginalda is engaged in our kitchen here at St. Joseph's Home, Peekskill, where we care for approximately 250 dependent children. Sister Crocefissa and Sister Leonida are engaged in our sisters' infirmary.

These sisters are very desirious of remaining in the United States, and we are most anxious to keep them. They are supported by the community, and do not receive any remuneration for their work. All of the sisters have adapted themselves very well, and we would consider it a tremendous loss if we are not able to keep these sisters.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 2158) should be enacted.

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